

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1281**

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**Introduced by Senator Block**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Section 6061.7 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to law schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1281, as amended, Block. Law schools: unaccredited law school disclosures.

Existing law requires any law school that is not accredited by the examining committee of the State Bar of California (*State Bar*) to provide every student with a disclosure statement, subsequent to the payment of any application fee but prior to the payment of any registration fee, that contains, among other things, a statement that the law school is not accredited and the number and percentage of students who have taken and who have passed the first-year law student's examination and the final bar examination in the previous ~~five~~ 5 years, or since the establishment of the school, whichever time is less, as specified.

This bill would additionally require a law school that is not accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) to ~~post~~ *publicly disclose* on its Internet Web site, specified information, including tuition costs, class sizes, number of faculty, bar passage data, and employment outcomes for graduates. The bill would define terms for these purposes. The bill would also authorize the State Bar to develop a standard

information reporting template. The bill would require specific disclosure information be distributed by the school to all applicants being offered conditional scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is extended.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 6061.7 is added to the Business and  
2 Professions Code, to read:  
3 6061.7. (a) Any law ~~schools~~ *school that is not approved by*  
4 *the American Bar Association shall publicly disclose on its Internet*  
5 *Web site, with a link from the Internet home page under*  
6 *“Admissions,” all of the following information:*  
7 (1) Admissions data.  
8 (2) Tuition, fees, and financial aid.  
9 (3) Conditional scholarships.  
10 (4) ~~Enrollment data, including academic, transfer, and other~~  
11 ~~attrition data.~~  
12 (5) Number of full-time and part-time faculty, ~~professional~~  
13 ~~technically trained librarians, and administrators.~~  
14 (6) ~~Average class sizes for required courses~~ *size of each required*  
15 *course and the number of clinical offerings.*  
16 (7) Employment outcomes for graduates.  
17 (8) Bar passage data.  
18 (b) (1) The information in subdivision (a) shall be disclosed  
19 ~~and published on the law school’s Internet Web site in a~~  
20 *standardized information report that is readily accessible to current*  
21 *and prospective students in a manner that is complete, accurate,*  
22 *and not misleading to a reasonable student or applicant.*  
23 (2) The State Bar may create a standardized information report  
24 template.  
25 (3) ~~All law schools described in subdivision (a)~~ *Any law school*  
26 *that is not approved by the American Bar Association shall include*  
27 *the standardized information report as part of the annual*  
28 *compliance report required from to be submitted to the State Bar*  
29 *by all law schools that are not approved by the American Bar*  
30 *Association and are regulated by the examining committee of the*  
31 *State Bar.*

1 (4) A law school may use the information report template to  
2 comply with the information disclosure required under subdivision  
3 (a).

4 ~~(c) A law school described in subdivision (a)~~ *Any law school*  
5 *that is not approved by the American Bar Association* shall publicly  
6 disclose on its Internet Web site, in a readable and comprehensive  
7 manner, all of the following information on a current basis:

8 (1) ~~Refund policies~~ *policy*.

9 (2) Curricular offerings, academic calendar, and academic  
10 requirements.

11 ~~(3) Policies~~ *Policy* regarding the transfer of credit earned at  
12 another institution of higher education.

13 (d) The law school's transfer of credit ~~policies~~ *policy* shall  
14 include, at a minimum, both of the following:

15 (1) A statement of the criteria established by the law school  
16 regarding the transfer of credit earned *for coursework completed*  
17 at another institution.

18 (2) A list of institutions, if any, with which the law school has  
19 established an articulation ~~agreement~~ *agreement and the terms of*  
20 *any such agreement. If the law school has not entered into a*  
21 *transfer or articulation agreement with any other college or*  
22 *university, the institution shall disclose that fact.*

23 (e) All information that a law school reports, publicizes, or  
24 distributes pursuant to this section shall be complete, accurate, and  
25 not misleading to a reasonable law school student or applicant. A  
26 law school shall use due diligence in obtaining and verifying such  
27 information.

28 (f) A law school *that is not approved by the American Bar*  
29 *Association* shall distribute the data required under paragraph (3)  
30 of subdivision (a) to all applicants being offered conditional  
31 scholarships at the time the scholarship offer is ~~extended~~ *made*.

32 (g) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
33 apply:

34 (1) *"Admissions data" means information from the most recently*  
35 *enrolled fall semester class including the total number of*  
36 *applications, the total number of accepted students, and the 75th,*  
37 *50th, and 25th percentile scores for the undergraduate grade point*  
38 *averages and law school admission test scores of admitted students.*

1 (2) “Bar passage data” means the most current cumulative bar  
2 pass rates defined and reported by the examining committee of the  
3 State Bar.

4 (3) “Conditional scholarship” means any financial aid award,  
5 the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining  
6 a minimum grade point average or class standing other than that  
7 ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.

8 ~~(1)~~

9 (4) “Curricular offering” means only those courses offered in  
10 the current and past two academic years.

11 ~~(2) “Conditional scholarship” means any financial aid award,~~  
12 ~~the retention of which is dependent upon the student maintaining~~  
13 ~~a minimum grade point average or class standing, other than that~~  
14 ~~ordinarily required to remain in good academic standing.~~

15 ~~(3) “Bar passage data” means the most current cumulative bar~~  
16 ~~pass rates defined and reported by the examining committee of the~~  
17 ~~State Bar.~~

18 ~~(4)~~

19 (5) “Employment outcomes for graduates” means the results of  
20 a survey by the law school, taken three years after graduation, that  
21 breaks down the employment rate of graduates in each of the first  
22 three years after graduation, including the rate of employment of  
23 graduates in jobs where a Juris Doctor degree is required by the  
24 employer and the rate of employment of graduates in jobs where  
25 a Juris Doctor degree is an advantage in employment.

26 ~~(5) “Admissions data” means information from the most recently~~  
27 ~~enrolled fall semester class including total number of applications,~~  
28 ~~the total number of accepted students, and the 75th, 50th, and 25th~~  
29 ~~percentile scores for the undergraduate grade point averages and~~  
30 ~~law school admission test scores of admitted students.~~

31 (6) “Enrollment data” means information about the number of  
32 students who are admitted to the school per class per year for the  
33 past three years, the number of students who transfer to and from  
34 the school per class per year for the past three years, and the  
35 number of students who do not continue to attend the school each  
36 year for the past three years on either a voluntary or involuntary  
37 basis.

38 (7) “Transfer or articulation agreement” means an agreement  
39 between the law school and any other college or university that

1 *provides for the transfer of credits earned in the program of*  
2 *instruction.*

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